



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

22 May 2007
International Day for Biological Diversity



Biodiversity and Climate Change

Ref: SCBD/STTM/RH/lj/59100

9 July 2007

NOTIFICATION

Subject: Invitation to Provide Views on the Procedure for the Identification and Consideration of Emerging Issues

Dear Sir/Madam,

In recommendation XII/8, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) requested the Executive Secretary *inter alia* to seek the views of Parties on the suggested elements of the procedure for the identification of emerging issues, the conditions for their inclusion in the agenda of relevant meetings, and appropriate ways to respond to new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and to present options for consideration by SBSTTA at its thirteenth meeting. The unedited advance text of recommendation XII/8 is attached for your reference.

In accordance with this request, the Executive Secretary invites Parties to provide relevant information on the procedure for the identification of emerging issues, the conditions for their inclusion in the agenda of relevant meetings, and appropriate ways to respond to new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Parties may wish to refer to the annex to recommendation XII/8, which includes elements for a procedure developed by a drafting group during the twelfth meeting of SBSTTA.

Please kindly submit your views to the Secretariat (secretariat@cbd.int or fax +1-514-288-6588) at your earliest convenience but no later than **15 September 2007** to enable the Secretariat to submit a synthesis to SBSTTA-13 in February 2008.

I look forward to our continued collaboration in the enhanced implementation of the work of the Convention.

Please accept, Sir, Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ahmed Djoghlaflaf
Executive Secretary

To All CBD Focal Points and SBSTTA Focal Points



XII/8. Process to elaborate the procedure for the identification and consideration of emerging issues

1. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) *recalled* that SBSTTA was established, *inter alia*, to provide the Conference of the Parties and, as appropriate, its other subsidiary bodies with timely advice relating to the implementation of the Convention. In accordance with the consolidated *modus operandi* annexed to decision VIII/10, its specific functions include the identification of new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

2. At its twelfth meeting, SBSTTA *recognized* the need to further clarify the procedure for the identification of emerging issues, the conditions for their inclusion in the agenda of relevant meetings, and the appropriate ways and means to respond to new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. It *further recognized* that it is not necessary to consider an emerging issue at each meeting.

3. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *recommends* that the Executive Secretary:

(a) *Seeks*, through established channels, the views of Parties on the suggested elements of the procedure for the identification of emerging issues, the conditions for their inclusion in the agenda of relevant meetings, and appropriate ways to respond to new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as contained in the annex to this recommendation;

(b) *Prepares*, in consultation with the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, a document that incorporates the views received from Parties; and

(c) *Presents* to the Subsidiary Body at its thirteenth meeting options for the identification of emerging issues, the conditions for their inclusion in the agenda of relevant meetings, and appropriate ways to respond to new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Annex

Suggested procedure for the identification of emerging issues, the conditions for their inclusion in the agenda of relevant meetings, and the mandate to respond to new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

1. Before meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

(a) The Executive Secretary will, in consultation with the members of the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, facilitate a wide consultation with Parties prior to the selection of an emerging issue by the Subsidiary Body and subsequently by the Conference of the Parties;

(b) The Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice will apply the following criteria for the selection among different proposals of an emerging issue:

(to be elaborated on the basis of views from Parties)

(c) The Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice will advise the Executive Secretary on appropriate sources of information to facilitate preparation of documentation for each emerging issue to be considered by the Subsidiary Body,

in accordance with the process established in the consolidated *modus operandi* for the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice contained in annex III to decision VIII/10, including by setting up electronic forums and other appropriate means of consultation;

(d) The Executive Secretary, in consultation with the members of the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, will seek to balance the placement of the emerging issue with the existing agenda of the meeting;

(e) The Executive Secretary, in consultation with the members of the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, will identify no more than one emerging issue for each meeting of the Subsidiary Body.

3. During its meetings, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice will:

(a) Assess the impacts of any emerging issue under consideration on the implementation of the Convention and achievement of its three objectives;

(b) Identify any knowledge gaps on any emerging issue and suggest how to fill those gaps;

(c) Consider the relationship of the issue to the existing work and explore the way to integrate it into the work of the Convention;

(d) Identify immediate actions that the Subsidiary Body can take within its mandate and those actions that require consideration by the Conference of the Parties.
